

Wilfrid Desroches Committed for Trial on Murder Charge

Dean Kester, K.C., of Timmins, Counsel for the Defence.

Last week at Cochrane court, Magistrate E. R. Tucker committed Wilfrid Desroches for trial by a higher court on a charge of the murder of Mrs. J. B. April, of Driftwood, and the attempted murder of her husband, J. B. April, on July 1st this year. He will be tried at the fall sittings of the Supreme Court at Cochrane.

Mr. Dean Kester, K. C., of Timmins, appeared as counsel for the defence. Assistant Crown Attorney, A. V. Waters, K. C., conducted the case for the prosecution.

Desroches, who has been living recently in Cochrane, is said to be well known in Timmins. The Cochrane Northland Post in its report of the hearing says that he gave no outward sign of any emotion through the hearing and that he remained silent all through the court. The same paper reports that he was brought into the court shackled but was released from the handcuffs on the magistrate's instructions at the opening of the court.

Mr. J. B. April was brought from the hospital and was the first witness. He testified that he and his wife were alone at their home at Driftwood on July 1st at 5 a.m. when they were awakened by Desroches, whom he knew well. Desroches asked him to take a horse and pull his car out of the mud some distance up the road. Both the farmer and his wife had dressed and April accompanied Desroches to the auto. April said that Desroches appeared sober. After freeing the car, Mr. April started back home with his horse, while Desroches drove ahead. When Mr. April reached his barn fifteen or twenty minutes later, he was shot twice in the head and Desroches searched his pockets, and then went to the house. April managed to crawl to the barn, where he found his wife lying in the barn, bleeding from wounds in the head. Desroches, the witness said, returned to the barn but did not enter it and did not see April there. Witness managed to crawl on a stone boat and drive to a general store in Driftwood where he stayed until the police arrived.

Provincial Constable S. Whitehouse told of answering the call from Driftwood, finding Mr. April and also finding Mrs. April lying inside of the barn seriously wounded and partly stripped. Later the police found Desroches asleep in a car parked on the highway. In Desroches' pocket there was a revolver fully loaded with a box containing ammunition. There were two empty beer bottles in the car. The accused had \$2.38 in his pockets.

Medical testimony was given in regard to the injuries sustained by Mr. and Mrs. April. Dr. Empey said that

Mrs. April died from the effects of two bullet wounds in her head. She had also been bruised about the face and head. Dr. Empey said that he had extracted one bullet from Mr. April's head but that it was impossible to remove the other one without endangering the man's life.

Corporal H. Finger, of the provincial police at Cochrane, testified as to the taking of two statements from the accused. These were typed and submitted also to Mr. Kester, but were not read.

Timmins Man Doing Good Work in Shop for Canadian Navy

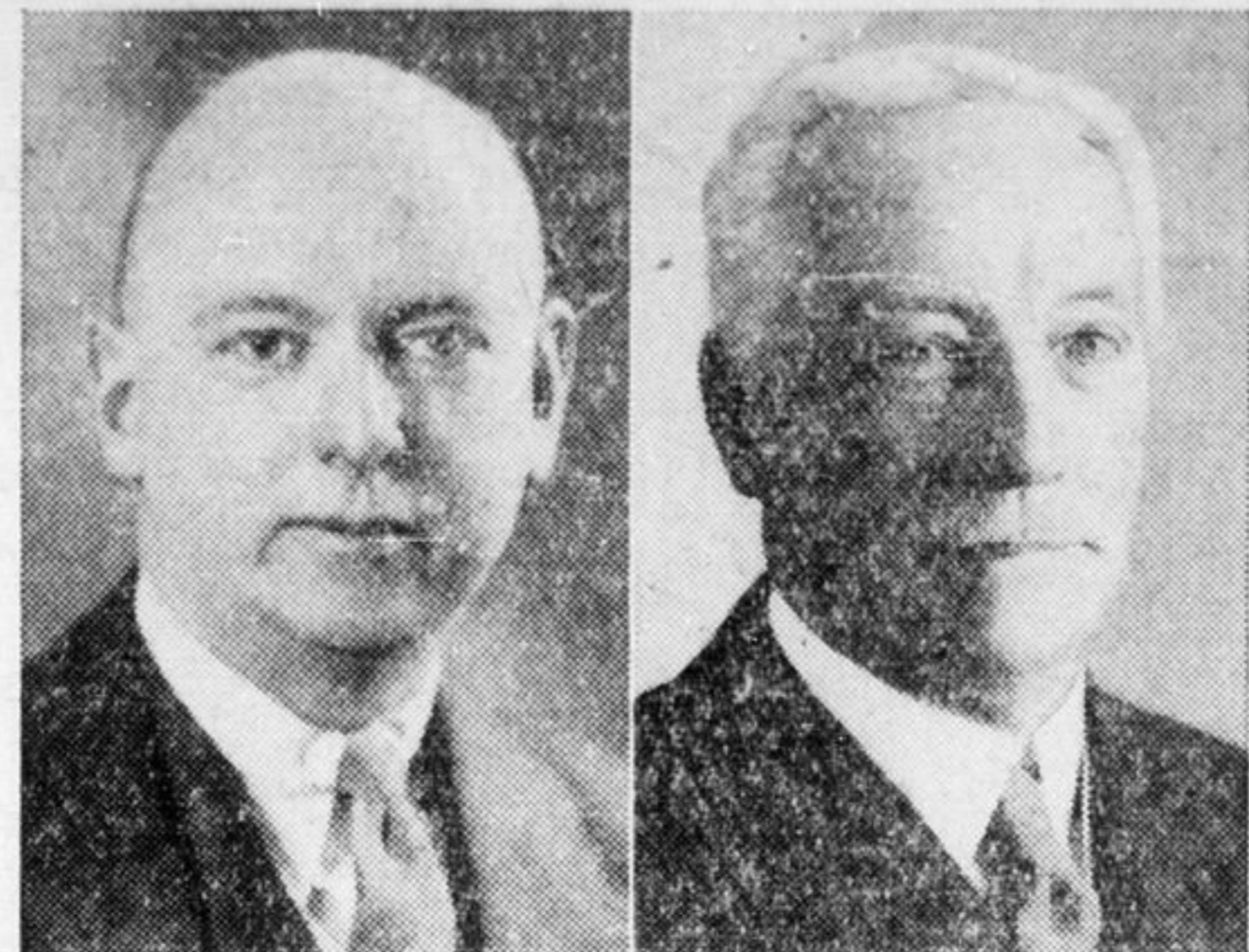
W. Engineer James Cowan, of the R.C.N., Writes of Work in the East.

W. Engineer James Cowan, formerly of the Hollinger Plate Shop, and now in the Canadian Navy where his skill and experience are of special value in repair work, wrote recently to Mr. W. H. Pritchard, Master Mechanic at the Hollinger, telling something of the work being carried on in the East in the way of repair work, etc., for the Canadian Navy. The letter reads in part as follows:—

"At last I have got settled in the King's Na-vee! I have to take charge of the combined workshops down here. It is quite interesting work. I get a defect list when the ship comes in port, and I go aboard and look the damage over. If I have the men and material to do the job, I O.K. the list and then go ahead with the repairs. . . We have a lot of welding to do, as our ships sure get a battering in the North Atlantic. . . This is a new base. We are getting organized gradually. . . I have two portable gas-driven arc welders and two in the shop the same pattern as we have in the Hollinger. Our welders have the heaviest end down here. Hanging over the ship on a rope, trying to weld up plates; then, next, trying to weld standing nearly upside down in the stoke-hold. . . I have a good set of rolls, 1 radial drill, and 1 small vertical drill, and we sure do lots of work with them. . . This is a lovely country down here. We can see the city straight across from the base. It is a wonderful sight at night to see the glare from the steel work being poured down the bank. You can see the glare for miles around the country. . . We cannot say to much about naval matters, so this letter may not be as interesting as it might be. . . Be sure to remember me to my old friends Joe, Roy, Tom, W. Avery and Ed., and the others, and hoping this war will be finished before long."

Sense and Nonsense:— There is no doubt about the Allies winning the war. Some of the European countries have fallen from the fence on the side of the Allies.

Follows Father as C.P.R. Vice-President



Eric A. Leslie (left), newly appointed vice-president and comptroller of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is carrying on a family tradition in that high position for his father, John Leslie (right), was vice-president and comptroller of the company from 1926 until 1928 at which time he became vice-president of finance and treasurer, a position he retained until 1932 when he retired after more than half a century of railway work. The new vice-president

and comptroller is 45 years old and has been associated with the company for 20 years. His record was broken by attendance at McGill University on a Canadian Pacific scholarship and three years overseas service in the Great War as a lieutenant with the Canadian Artillery. He won two medals as a student—the Governor General's Silver Medal at Montreal High School and the British Association Medal in transportation at McGill University where he graduated from the Faculty of Applied Science.

Conservative Candidate for the North Riding

As noted in The Advance last week, Mr. Michel Halle, of Hearst, will be the candidate for the Progressive Conservative party in the riding of North Cochrane. It was reported that the Conservatives in the North riding did not intend to run a candidate in this provincial election. This apparently was not the fact. At the recent convention of the Progressive Conservatives held in North Cochrane it was decided to leave the selection of a candidate in the hands of the executive committee of the association. The executive duly canvassed the situation and after careful consideration held a meeting at which Michel Halle was selected as the standard bearer for North Cochrane.

Michel Halle has lived in the North for some twenty-two years and during that time has successfully conducted several different types of business. He has not before offered himself for provincial or Dominion honours, but he has served a couple of terms as councillor for the town of Hearst, and has held other offices of public and semi-public trust, so that he is not without experience in public service. He will not have much time to organize and conduct a campaign over the wide territory of Cochrane North, but he has gone into the battle with a will and will

not be easily defeated. Mr. Halle is said to have a large following in the North riding and admirers of his in the North say that he will put up a strong campaign.

Long Freight Trains Now Reported on the T. & N. O.

Recently there have been some unusually long freight trains on the T. & N. O. Railway. A recent one had 76 cars, while another on the main line had 86 cars. In speaking of those long trains The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—

"Several exceptionally lengthy freight trains have been observed heading north along the T. & N. O. within the last week, with the longest noticed on Tuesday night, when a train of 86 cars met the southbound "Northland" here. Two engines hauled this train, which stretched back to the Beach for a distance of more than a half mile. The locomotives were the 302 and 313, and the former now has the name of the government railway in white letters enclosed in an oval which decorates the tender. A few days before, a train of 76 cars passed north."

North Bay Nugget:— Regarding a story, now around, that the Duce has lost 22 pounds in three months, it is assumed the Sheriff's description will be revised accordingly.

Hearing Commences in Case of Death of Sir Harry Oakes

Preliminary Hearing Adjourned to Next Week.

Nassau, Bahamas, July 26 — Testimony that Count Alfred de Marigny was in the vicinity of Sir Harry Oakes' home near the time Sir Harry was murdered July 8 was introduced today in the preliminary hearing.

Mrs. Dorothy Clarke, wife of a R.A.F. officer, testified that de Marigny was near his father-in-law's home at 1 a.m. According to Oakes' personal physician, the multi-millionaire died some time between 2:45 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Jean Amsley said they attended a dinner party at De Marigny's home the night of July 8, adding that the dinner was over about 1 a.m. De Marigny drove them home. As they left De Marigny's home, Mrs. Clark said, he called attention to the time, which was 1:05 a.m. They reached home about 1:20 a.m., she added, and De Marigny drove away at once.

Played Cards With Friends
Sir Harry Oakes played cards with a man and woman in his 20 room villa the night before he was found dead in bed, a Negro housemaid testified.

Mabel Ellis, first witness called as the three-postponed preliminary hearing was resumed before Magistrate F. E. Field, said that when she left the house at 10:15 p.m. Oakes was seated in the card room with a man and woman she had never seen before and Harold G. Christie, a close friend of Oakes who found his body in bed the following morning.

Two Windows Open
Mabel Ellis said on the night of the murder she had sprayed the bedroom with fly spray, and left the sprayer half full near the door. In the room also was a small fan on the floor. "I left everything in perfect order in the room at 10 o'clock," she said. "All the doors and windows were opened. Those were my instructions. All the windows in the room except two on the south are screened and I left those open."

Questioned by Crown Counsel Alfred Adderly she said there were three "open ways" of getting into Oakes' room: One through the main entrance and upstairs, the second up the stairway from the beach; third, another stairway leading to the garage.

Harold Christie, friend and confidante of Oakes, had slept with Oakes the previous night, she testified, and during the day a man and woman whom she did not now come to the house but she was not informed that anyone was staying. She didn't prepare any bedrooms except Oakes', she said.

Discontinued Questioning
She said there were objects in the multi-millionaire's bedroom which might have been used by the assailant in bludgeoning him to death. One

was an insect sprayer and the other a small fan.

As Defence Attorney Godfrey W. Higgs began to cross-examine the witness about the spray gun, his client Alfred de Marigny whispered in his ear. The attorney abruptly discontinued his questioning.

De Marigny was brought into court late, and exchanged smiles with his wife, who had waited nearly an hour in the milling crowd in the courthouse square. Nancy took her seat in court next to Mrs. Godfrey Higgs, wife of the defence counsel. She wore a simple white frock and a large straw hat.

The second witness, Mrs. Michael Heneage, a British visitor to the colony, and one of the quartet at Oakes' home on the night of his death, said she left the house at 11 p.m. with Charles Hubbard after an evening of tennis, cocktails, dinner and Chinese checkers with Oakes and Christie. "Sir Harry was in very good spirits that night," she said.

Constable Wendell Parker testified that De Marigny came to the police station at 7:30 a.m., July 8, and asked about having an automobile converted into a truck. "He appeared excited," Parker said. "His lips didn't look right."

A few minutes later, over the strenuous objection of the defence, the hearing was adjourned until Tuesday of next week.

Increased Pay for Members of Women's Services in Canada

Announcement by Defence Minister Ralston in the House of Commons on the closing day of the session, of increased pay and other financial benefits for members of the women's services was received with pleasure by members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

The matter of pay has always been one of great interest to soldiers in Canada's army and the women in uniform are no exceptions. The increased monetary benefits will also make the service much more attractive to prospective recruits.

A recruit in the C.W.A.C. will now receive \$1.05 a day from the date of her enlistment. At the end of four and six months efficient service this will be increased until it reaches \$1.20 per day at the end of six months. The private will then be receiving \$3.40 per week in addition to living accommodation, food, clothing, medical and dental attention, hospitalization and specialized training that will improve her chances of success in civilian life when victory comes.

In addition trades pay will be granted to women at the same rate as for men. According to her grouping, the qualified tradeswoman in the C.W.A.C. will receive 25, 50 or 75 cents additional per day. Thus a tradeswoman in the top bracket will receive \$13.65 per week

clear, is she is a private. If she qualifies for corporal's or sergeant's stripes her pay will be increased again.

Of particular interest to many young women who have been anxious to join the C.W.A.C. but have found it economically impossible because parents or other close relatives are dependent upon them for support, is the new regulation which makes such dependents eligible for allowances.

The same rules govern these allowances as in the case of men. A C.W.A.C. private, who is supporting her mother, must assign a portion of her pay, usually about half, to the dependent. The allowance proper is \$35.00 per month. Thus the girl's mother, if \$20. per month is assigned, will receive a cheque from Ottawa each month for \$35. It is possible to assign additional funds to a dependent.

Married women, whose husbands are in the service and who join the C.W.A.C. will not be debarred from continuing to receive dependent's allowance on their husband's account. Any girl in the service who marries a soldier, sailor or airman, may receive the regulation allowance for a wife after they have been married six months.

The only other restriction on the payment of such allowances to a member of the C.W.A.C. is that the women's total income, including her army pay and her allowance from her husband does not exceed \$2,100. Assigned pay received from her husband may be in excess of this amount however.

Something Wrong With All the Axis Partners

The BBC said Monday that the latest talk, apparently in Germany, was that Hitler has lost his voice. Goebels had lockjaw, which makes him unable to laugh. Goering has had a nervous breakdown.

Ottawa House Adjourns After Six-Month Session

The Dominion parliament adjourned on Monday after sitting six months and with little to show for the time and cost of the session, the government majority being so large and so docile that there was "nothing to it."

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IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE



Where the Money is to Come From

- Partly from abolition of Overlapping Services.
- Partly from Departmental Economies.
- Still more of the necessary revenue will flow in from the stimulating influence this halving of school taxes will exert upon real estate values and upon rehousing and general building activities.
- Most of the necessary revenue will arise from the accelerated development of Ontario's vast natural resources that will result from the presence in Queen's Park of a Progressive Conservative Government of strong, capable men who have presented the Province with the most aggressive and constructive programme in the history of the Province.

TO THE RESCUE OF REAL ESTATE (Windsor Star)

Mr. Drew proposes that the Ontario Government, if he is called up to form it, will assume at least fifty percent of the school taxes now charged against real estate. . . If that were done in Windsor it would knock about 10 mills off the tax rate. That . . . would prove a relief to all taxpayers:

DREW, NIXON, AND SCHOOL TAXES (Ottawa Journal, July 13, 1943)

There will be a sweeping revision of our whole system of real estate taxation so that the owning and improvement of homes will not be discouraged by excessive taxation."

This clearly is one of the most important of the 22 points in the election program issued by Mr. George Drew, Ontario leader of the Progressive Conservative party.

Mr. Drew, elaborating briefly, said that "as the initial step" the provincial government would assume "at least 50 per cent of the school taxes now charged

against real estate," but explained that this change would not affect "the authority of the local school boards. . . ."

Mr. Drew's declaration of principles makes it possible to relieve a grievance which has existed for many years. We tell men and women that they should own their own homes—but we pile on those homes such a load of taxes that ownership often is a grievous burden which rests most heavily, by comparison, on those least able to pay. There was a classic example in the depression days when a very large part of the cost of direct relief was charged against the communities and so against real estate. Here was a situation which the municipalities had not brought about, could not cure, and for which they had no responsibility at all, and yet the unfortunate taxpayer was left "holding the bag" because there was no lesser government to which he could pass it. Only now are Ontario cities recovering from this gross injustice.

It would seem elementary that the cost of education should be distributed as widely as possible among all the people, and yet our present system (throws in the cities at least) the lion's share of it upon real estate. Mr. Drew, speaking after his nomination in High Park, Toronto, said that in Britain, in Australia and New Zealand, the greater part of school costs is borne by the State. Ontario should follow their example, and according to the Progressive Conservative leader it can be done without any increase in provincial taxes. "This province," he told the Toronto meeting, "was over-taxed last year by an amount considerably more than would be involved in these changes."

Here is a first-class election issue, with the Liberal Premier Nixon defending the old system and the Progressive Conservative party urging changes little short of revolutionary. No one can say this time there is "no difference" between parties.